

Message Text

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 099332

O R 121048Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9271

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11869

EXDIS

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: MEETING WITH UNESCO DIRECTOR
M'BOW

1. EXBD MEMBER SCHERER, PERMREP JONES, BAKER AND STULL MET MAY 9 FOR AN HOUR WITH DG M'BOW, DIRECTOR NAJMAN AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT BLATT-GIMENO. SCHERER OPENED WITH EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR M'BOW'S EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF UNESCO AND EFFORTS TOWARD "DEPOLITICIZATION," REFERRED TO US STATEMENT JUST DELIVERED BEFORE EXBD CONCERNING NON-INVITATION OF ISRAEL TO MEDITERRANEAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES AS "NOT TOO STRONG BUT SUFFICIENT TO REFLECT US CONCERNS", REVIEWED STATE OF AMERICAN OPINION PARTICULARLY US NATIONAL COMMISSION, AND CONCLUDED THAT US COMMITTED TO PROCESS OF MODIFYING ANTI-ISRAELI SLANT OF 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE AND RELATED RESOLUTIONS.

2. M'BOW RECALLED HIS WIDE RANGING AND HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE IN LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES NOTING THAT HE FOUND UNDERSTANDING AND ENCOURAGEMENT EVERYWHERE FOR HIS OWN VIEWS AS PUBLICLY STATED AT CONFIDENTIAL

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CLUSION 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE REGRETTING POLARIZATION

AND APPEALING FOR DAMPENING OF POLITICAL DISPUTE.
THROUGHOUT HIS POSITION WAS AND REMAINS TO REDUCE TEN-
SIONS, FACILITATE DIALOGUE AND ESCHEW CONFRONTATION.

3. M'BOW EMPHASIZED THAT BASIC REALITY TO BE UNDE-
RSTOOD IS THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO
EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP IF EUROPEAN MEMBERS HAD AGREED,
BUT ELEVEN EE STATES OPPOSED AND EIGHT WE AND ONE EE
STATES ABSTAINED OR ABSENTED. HE ARGUED THAT PRESSURE
CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNESCO IS BASED ON INCORRECT PREMISES,
IS ORCHESTRATED, AT LEAST IN EUROPE, AND IS NOT AN
EFFECTIVE METHOD. SITUATION WILL NOT CHANGE BECAUSE OF
INTELLECTUAL AND FINANCIAL PRESSURES. IT IS MISTAKE
FOR INTELLECTUALS TO BELIEVE THEY CAN INFLUENCE MEMBER
STATES AND CAN KILL UNESCO BY NON-PARTICIPATION. FACT
IS INTELLECTUALS FROM MANY OTHER MEMBER STATES HAVE
INDICATED TO M'BOW THAT THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO
REPLACE THOSE WHO MIGHT WITHDRAW. ALSO, SOME
MEMBER STATES HAVE OFFERED TO COVER FINANCIAL DEFICITS
CAUSED BY FAILURE OF US TO MEET ITS OBLIGATION TO WHICH
M'BOW SAID HE HAS REPLIED "ONLY US CAN PAY US CONTRI-
BUTIONS".

4. M'BOW REPEATED THAT SOLUTION CANNOT BE REACHED
THROUGH POLITICAL PRESSURE AND MADE IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR
REASON, CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION MOST PARTICULARLY
WITH US, ASSERTING THAT INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IS MATTER OF
TIME. 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE DECLARED ALL MEMBERS
SHOULD BE IN SUCH GROUPS AND PROBLEM TO BE RE-ADDRESSED
IN 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. IMPLYING STRONGLY THAT
ISRAEL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED IF HE HAD BEEN DG
AT TIME, M'BOW PROMISED TO STATE HIS VIEWS
CLEARLY BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE, NOT BECAUSE
OF PRESSURE BUT BECAUSE HE CONSIDERS IT THE RIGHT THING
TO DO AS DG. HE FULLY EXPECTS THAT THE 19TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE WILL BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES.

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 11869

EXDIS

FOR NOW M'BOW SAID HE IS REFRAINING FROM ADVANCE STATEMENTS BECAUSE HIS OBJECTIVE IS RESULTS NOT RHETORIC AND HE BELIEVES HIS APPROACH IS THE APPROPRIATE ONE. MEANWHILE HE SEEKS QUIETLY TO INFLUENCE THOSE HOSTILE TO ISRAEL'S POSITION. THUS FAR, ALL HIS INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN REFUSED BY ISRAEL, BUT THIS TOO HE HAS KEPT QUIET IN ORDER NOT TO COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM. AT SAME TIME HE UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL'S PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM.

5. AS TO JERUSALEM ISSUE, M'BOW SAID FRANKLY HE SEES NO SOLUTION. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE POSITION IS BASED ON UNGA AND SC RESOLUTIONS REGARDING STATUS OF JERUSALEM, NOTING IN PASSING THAT SC RESOLUTION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED OVER US OBJECTION. IF ISRAEL CEASES EXCAVATIONS, HE IS READY TO REPORT TO EXBD REGARDING LIFTING SANCTIONS. THIS REGARD HE HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT OTHERS, PARTICULARLY WE'S SHOULD ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE.

6. M'BOW RECALLED THAT HE HAS SUPPORTED US PREVIOUSLY IN UNESCO, HAS GOOD RAPPORT WITH SCHERER AND GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH JONES, AND IS WILLING MEET AND DISCUSS WITH ALL CONCERNED. SCHERER RESPONDED WE HERE TO DO BEST WE CAN. WE ARE UNDER DECIDED PUBLIC PRESSURE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PUT FORWARD EXBD RESOLUTION URGING RECONSIDERATION OF 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE ACTIONS. REALIZING NOW THIS WOULD BE DEFEATED WE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE CONCERNED THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN MEETING ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA WILL BE CONSTRUED AS AN ACTUAL HARDENING OF THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE ACTIONS AND THUS INVITE FURTHER PUBLIC OUTCRY.

7. M'BOW SAID SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE IF THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE HAD NOT ALREADY AGREED THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RE-ADDRESSED AT THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. WHILE HE HIMSELF HAD RAISED ISSUE IN THE INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S

REPORT TO THE EXBD, HE DOES NOT SEE HOW THE EXBD
APPROPRIATELY COULD ADOPT SUCH A RESOLUTION, SCHERER
REPEATED THAT MATTER COULD NOT BE CLARIFIED BY A
STRAIGHT FORWARD RESOLUTION OF THE EXBD. M'BOW POINTED
OUT THAT NO WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY HAD ACTED TO HAVE
ISRAEL INVITED TO THE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE.

8. M'BOW SAID HE DID NOT CONSIDER OUR DISCUSSION FULLY
EXHAUSTED AND WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING IT DURING
COURSE OF EXBD AND LATER IN THE US DURING VISIT
BY NAJMAN IN JUNE.
RUSH

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